

ABSTRACT

The present invention demonstrates that a delay in marrow infusion is associated with a decrease in the amount of conditioning required and improved engraftment. Surprisingly, it has been discovered that for a given dose of TBI, a delay in transplantation of the marrow for up to 8 days, and preferably 5 days, following conditioning was associated with a higher proportion of animals engrafting. For a given dose of conditioning, the highest proportion of animals engrafted when the marrow infusion was delayed by 4 days. In recipients conditioned with 700 cGy of TBI, a delay of marrow infusion for up to 4 days did not impair the establishment of chimerism. In recipients treated with 600 cGy TBI, engraftment was significantly improved if the marrow was infused 1-4 days following conditioning compared to the conventional delay of approximately 6 hours.